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Aging Questions & Answers — Lt. Governor Andre Bauer

Emergency Rental Assistance for Seniors

Question: Is it true that the State Office on Aging provides Rental Assistance for seniors on fixed incomes who do not own their homes?

Answer: The answer is yes – if an older person who rents is having a financial emergency that could lead to them being evicted for unpaid rent, we have a program that may be able to help. The Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging was awarded a grant from the South Carolina Hous-

ing and Development Authority to administer an emergency rental assistance program throughout the

state for persons age 60 and older who are at 120 percent of the federal poverty level or below.

Funding for the emergency rental assistance program is limited. Assistance is given on a first-come, first-served basis. All applicants must complete an application and provide proper documentation and

identification. To apply, contact Jennifer Hall in the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging in Columbia at 1-800-868-9095 or (803) 734-9901 (Columbia local calling area).

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In addition to getting help with their rent if they meet the program's guidelines, individuals who call in may also be referred to

an Information Referral and Assistance Specialist in their region. The IR&A Specialists will try to determine why a senior is having difficulty paying his or her rent and other expenses, and can provide information and counseling about other sources of help or support available for them.